

Chapter Three.

Downtown Harrington - The Vision



In order for the Downtown Plan to properly create a vision for the future, research was conducted to see what the past held, learned the needs of the present, and created changes for the future. John F. Kennedy presented two great quotes that pertain to the visions of the Plan:

“CHANGE is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

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As show below, older Harrington images were found thanks to the Delaware Public Archives, along with photos near the relevant location taken by KCI. They clearly show the path from past to the present.



Commerce Street and Clark Street intersection looking south.



Corner of Clark Street and Commerce Street - U.S. Post Office



Clark Street and Mechanic Street intersection - formerly the First National Bank, now Community Christian Church.



Clark Street view looking north - Norfolk Southern Railroad Train Station



Corner of Commerce Street and West Mispillion Street - Trinity United Methodist Church

Fleming Street - St. Stephen's Protestant Church (recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places)





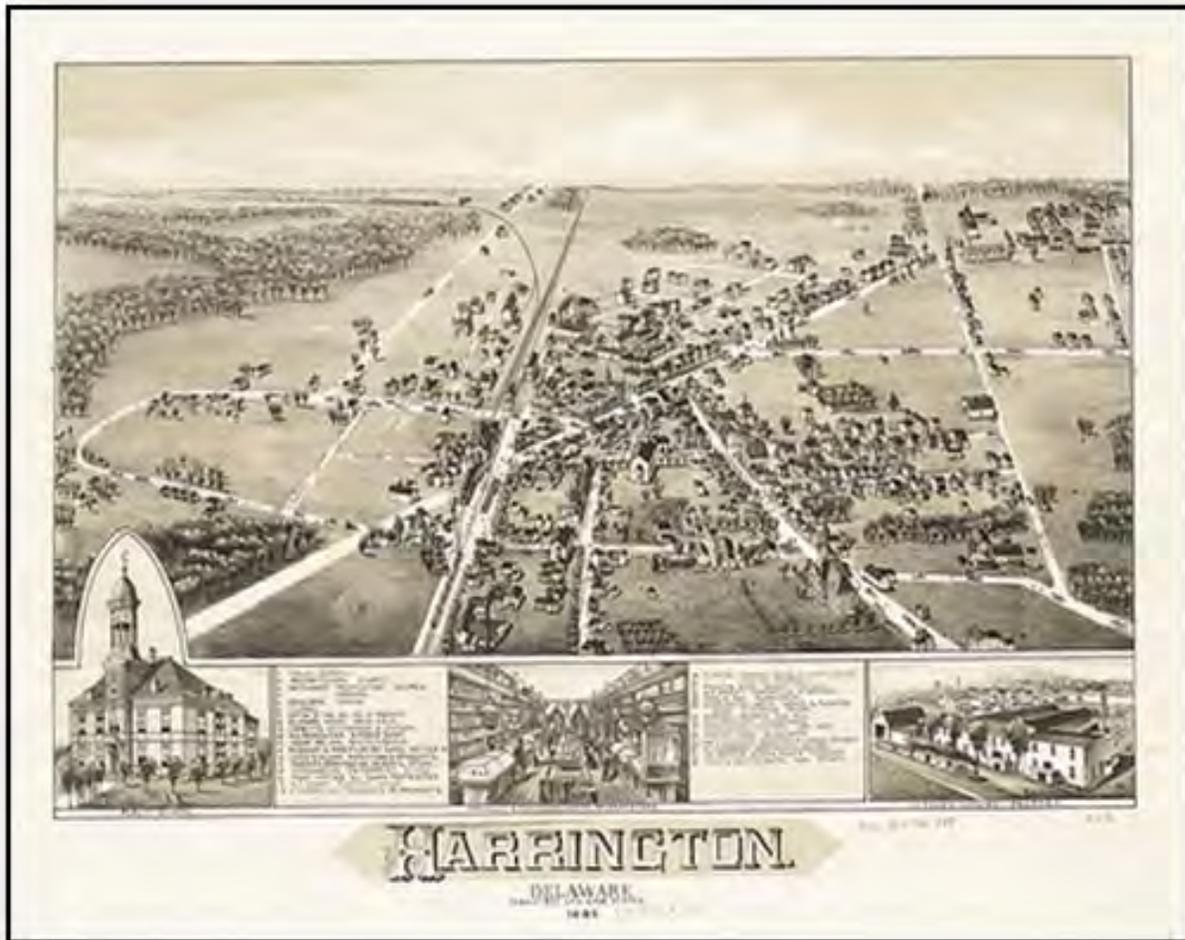
Corner of Clark Street and East Street - Formerly the Acme Super Market (above) and Spartan Station; now, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. (below)



Commerce Street and Dorman Street intersection. View looking north on Commerce Street.



Commerce Street looking north toward Downtown



As seen on the map above,
Harrington was and still is

“The Hub of Delaware”



After almost a year of studying, planning, and gathering ideas and input from the community in the Downtown planning process, eight core visions emerged for Downtown Harrington:

One.

Downtown is a place where **people come to play, work, shop, and live** – a vibrant and important community gathering place.

Two.

Downtown is **safe and friendly** for people of all ages, income levels, and cultures.

Three.

Downtown is an **economic engine for the City**, promoting a diverse economic environment that supports local entrepreneurial ventures.

Four.

Downtown is a **successful and desirable neighborhood** with a variety of housing choices and a mix of uses.

Five.

Downtown **values its historic buildings** and encourages **compatible, high-quality new construction**.

Six.

Downtown's streets safely accommodate **many modes of travel**: pedestrians, bicycles, automobiles, transit, and freight.

Seven.

Downtown's **streetscape is active and comfortable day and night**, with pedestrian-scale lighting, landscaping, seating, and other coordinated amenities that establish a distinct identity.

Eight.

Downtown has **thriving public events** that are local and regional destinations.